



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department Offers Financial Help to Septic System Owners

The Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department is offering financial assistance to area homeowners to help them maintain their septic systems.

The department will provide \$100 vouchers to up to 150 people to cover costs of pumping their septic tanks. Funding for the program was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

To be eligible for a voucher, a resident must live in the Lake Helena Watershed, which encompasses the Helena Valley and parts of Jefferson County. Lewis and Clark County residents must comply with septic system operation and maintenance reporting requirements as established in county onsite wastewater treatment regulations.

The vouchers are available on a first-come, first-served basis from the health department's Environmental Services Division, 447-8351, Room 230 of the City-County Building, 316 North Park, Helena.

Septic system owners can present the voucher to any licensed septic-tank pumper at the time of pumping. The pumper is responsible for submitting the voucher to the health department for reimbursement. The homeowner must pay any costs exceeding \$100.

The purpose of the voucher program is to protect human health by protecting ground and surface water. The program also will help homeowners extend the life of their septic systems. The health department recommends pumping septic tanks every three to five years, depending on the extent of use.

Vouchers will be available until gone or until June 30, whichever comes first.

*The Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department's mission is to improve and protect
the health of all Lewis & Clark County residents.*